(c) the amount of edible oil imported during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the gap between demand and availability of edible oils from indigenous sources is estimated at around 7 lakh MTs.

(c) The edible oils imported by STC during the last three financial years and till date are as under:—

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)
1988-89	10·89
1989-90	2·96
1990-91	5·38
1991-92 (Upto 18-11-1991)	0·30

Mobile Fair Price Shops

696. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate mobile Fair Price Shops in the inaccessible areas of the country;

(b) if so, the states where such Fair Price Shops are being operated;

(c) whether any Fair Price Shop has been set up in the tribal areas in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas where such shops are being operated in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Central Government have since 1985-86, been operating a Plan Scheme for providing Financial Assistance to States/UTs for purchasing vans to be operated as mobile Fair Price Shops in inaccessible areas etc. of the country. Assistance under this scheme has so far been availed of by 17 State Governments/UT Administrations *viz* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chandigarh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d). As many as 51 mobile Fair Price Shops are being operated by the Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation in Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas of the State, covering 21 Project areas, located in 9 districts.

697. [*Transferred to the 6th December*, 1991]

The quality of food article supplied through Public Distribution System

698. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of food articles, supplied through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): The steps taken to provide proper quality of food articles through the Public Distribution System (PDS) include:

Foodgrains: Food Corporation of India (FCI) issues to State Governments/their agencies, foodgrains confirming to PFA requirements. Facility is provided to the recipient agency to check thequality of foodgrains issued by FCI. Generally, sealed samples are drawn and one sample is given to the recipient authority for reference purpose.

Levy Sugar: The quality of levy sugar being supplied to the States/UTs for distribution under PDs is of ISS Grade. As and when a complaint regarding the quality of sugar is received, the same is looked into for remedial action.

Edible Oils: Imported edible oils supplied through the PDS have to conform to the standard of quality laid down under FFA. Authorities concerned, including the State Governments, have been advised to take action so as to ensure conformity of the oils to the quality standards laid down.

Sale of adulterated groundnut oil

699. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 90 per cent filtered groundnut oil sold in the loose form at retail outlets is normally adulterated;

(b) whether it is a fact that the groundnut oil is mostly adulterated with Castor oil and in some cases with cottonseed oil; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure avilability of groundnut oil free from adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As per News Item published in the *Times of India* dated 20th September 1991, sample surveys conducted at the instance of NDDB indicate that filterated groundnut oil sold in loose from retail outlet is normally adulterated. Adulterants were castor oil/cottonseed oil.

(c) State Governments have been issued instructions to take action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act so as to prevent adulteration of edible oils including groundnut oil.

Revamping of P. D. S.

700. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
DR. ABRAR AHMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether any deadline has been fixed to revamp the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) if so, by when the Public Distribution System would be revamped throughout the country; and to what extent the people residing in remote areas will get articles through PDS;

(c) what are the measures included in the revamping of Public Distribution System and the progress made in different states; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to close down fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country is a continual process.

The Central Government has in consultation with the State Govts. and UT Administrations identified, for special focus, the areas covered by Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP). The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to cover all the people living in these identified areas by issue of ration cards, strengthen delivery systems, open additional fair price shops and set up additional storage capacity, wherever necessary. About 1700 Blocks have been identified for this purpose.

(d) Setting up of Fair Price Shops is done by the State Govts./UT Administrations. There is, however, no policy of the Central Government for closing fair price shops.

Demands of Veterans (World War II) Co-ordinating Council

701. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Veterans (World War II) Coordinating Cell called on the Defence Minister on November